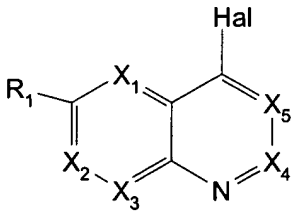
AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 20, 27, 29, and 31 as indicated below. Please also add new claims 33 and 34. Deletions appear in ~~strikethrough font~~, and additions are underlined.

Complete list of claims

Claims 1-19 **(Cancelled)**

20. **(Currently amended)** A compound of formula (III)



(III)

wherein:

X_1 is >C-R'$_1$;

X_2 is >C-R'$_2$;

X_3 is >C-R'$_3$;

X_4 is >C-R'$_4$;

X_5 is >C-F;

and, optionally, one of X_1, X_2, X_3, and X_4 is a nitrogen atom;

R_1, represents an alkyl, cycloalkyl, phenyl, phenylthio, mono- or bicyclic aromatic heterocyclyl or heterocyclylthio, hydroxyl, alkyloxy, trifluoromethoxy, alkylthio, trifluoromethylthio, cycloalkyloxy, cycloalkylthio, cyano, carboxyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, cycloalkyloxycarbonyl, -NRaRb or -CONRaRb radical

for which Ra and Rb are independently hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, phenyl, mono- or bicyclic aromatic heterocyclyl, or

Ra and Rb form, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, a 5- or 6-membered heterocycle which can optionally contain an additional heteroatom chosen from O, S and N and, when the additional heteroatom is N, the additional heteroatom optionally is substituted with an alkyl, phenyl or mono- or bicyclic aromatic heterocyclyl substituent and, when the additional heteroatom is S, the additional heteroatom optionally is sulfinyl or sulfonyl,

or R_1 represents a methylene radical substituted with fluoro, hydroxyl, alkyloxy, alkylthio, cycloalkyloxy, cycloalkylthio, phenyl, mono- or bicyclic aromatic heterocyclyl, carboxyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, cycloalkyloxycarbonyl, -NRaRb or -CONRaRb

for which Ra and Rb are defined as above, and are additionally chosen from phenoxy, heterocyclyloxy, benzyloxy, and heterocyclylmethyloxy,

or R_1 can also represent difluoromethoxy, or a radical of structure $-C_mF_{2m+1}$, $-SC_mF_{2m+1}$, or $-OC_mF_{2m+1}$, wherein m is an integer from 1 to 6;

R'_1, R'_2, R'_3, and R'_4 are identical or different, and each independently is:

a hydrogen or halogen atom or an alkyl, cycloalkyl, phenyl, phenylthio, mono- or bicyclic aromatic heterocyclyl or heterocyclylthio, hydroxyl, alkyloxy, trifluoromethoxy, alkylthio, trifluoromethylthio, cycloalkyloxy,

cycloalkylthio, cyano, carboxyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, cycloalkyloxycarbonyl, -NRaRb or -CONRaRb radical

for which Ra and Rb are independently hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, phenyl, mono- or bicyclic aromatic heterocyclyl, or

Ra and Rb form, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, a 5- or 6-membered heterocycle which can optionally contain an additional heteroatom chosen from O, S and N and, when the additional heteroatom is N, the additional heteroatom optionally is substituted with an alkyl, phenyl or mono- or bicyclic aromatic heterocyclyl substituent and, when the additional heteroatom is S, the additional heteroatom optionally is sulfinyl or sulfonyl,

or a methylene radical substituted with fluoro, hydroxyl, alkyloxy, alkylthio, cycloalkyloxy, cycloalkylthio, phenyl, mono- or bicyclic aromatic heterocyclyl, carboxyl, alkyloxycarbonyl, cycloalkyloxycarbonyl, -NRaRb or -CONRaRb

for which Ra and Rb are defined as above, and are additionally chosen from phenoxy, heterocyclyloxy, benzyloxy, and heterocyclylmethyloxy;~~, and, optionally,~~

~~R_1 is difluoromethoxy, or a radical of structure $-C_mF_{2m+1}$, $-SC_mF_{2m+1}$, or $-OC_mF_{2m+1}$ wherein m is an integer from 1 to 6~~;

Hal is chlorine, bromine or iodine;

wherein any alkyl or acyl radical or portion, unless otherwise indicated,

comprises from 1 to 10 carbon atoms in a straight or branched chain, and any cycloalkyl radical comprises from 3 to 6 carbon atoms;

with the proviso that the compound of formula (III) is not 3-fluoro-4-chloro-6,7-dimethoxy-quinoline.

21. **(Previously presented)** The compound as claimed in claim 20, wherein Hal is bromine or iodine.

22. **(Previously presented)** The compound as claimed in claim 20, wherein Hal is iodine.

23. **(Previously presented)** 4-Chloro-3-fluoro-6-methoxyquinoline.

24. **(Previously presented)** 4-Bromo-3-fluoro-6-methoxyquinoline.

25. **(Previously presented)** 4-Iodo-3-fluoro-6-methoxyquinoline.

26. **(Previously presented)** 3-Fluoro-6-methoxyquinoline.

27. **(Currently amended)** A process for preparing a compound as claimed in claim ~~1~~20, wherein Hal is chlorine, comprising fluorinating the corresponding 4-chloro-quinoline.

28. **(Previously presented)** The process according to claim 27, wherein the compound prepared is 4-chloro-3-fluoro-6-methoxyquinoline and the starting material is 4-chloro-6-methoxyquinoline.

29. **(Currently amended)** A process for preparing a compound as claimed in claim ~~1~~20, wherein Hal is bromine, comprising brominating the corresponding 3-fluoro-4-hydroxyquinoline.

30. **(Previously presented)** The process according to claim 29, wherein the compound prepared is 4-Bromo-3-fluoro-6-methoxyquinoline.

31. **(Currently amended)** A process for preparing a compound as claimed in claim ~~1~~20, wherein Hal is iodine, comprising:
contacting the corresponding 3-fluoro-quinoline with a suitable base, and
iodating the product resulting from the previous step.

32. **(Previously presented)** The process according to claim 31, wherein the compound prepared is 4-Iodo-3-fluoro-6-methoxyquinoline and the starting material is 3-fluoro-6-methoxyquinoline.

33. (**New**) The compound as claimed in claim 20, wherein R_1 is alkyloxy.

34. (**New**) The compound as claimed in claim 33, wherein R_1 is methoxy.